

ABSTRACT

5 A method and device prevent a set-top terminal from
accepting a download of new programming or data over a
cable network when the download would be redundant of
information already possessed by the set-top terminal
or would cause an inconvenience to subscribers. When
the set-top terminal is signaled that a new download is
being offered, the set-top terminal checks to see if
the download in fact contains a newer version of data
10 or programming than is currently resident in the set-
top terminal. The set-top terminal also checks whether
criteria for accepting a download are met. The
criteria are conditions that tend to indicate that an
interruption of service to accept a download would not
15 inconvenience the subscriber at that time. When the
criteria are met, the download is accepted. Otherwise,
the download is not accepted or is not accepted until
the criteria are satisfied. Similar criteria govern
the termination of the older, executing programming and
20 the execution of the newer, downloaded programming to,
again, prevent unwarranted disruptions in service.

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